

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:WBSMITH:MBB

APPROVED BY S/P:WINSTON LORD

ARA:WGBOWDLER

P:JJSISCO

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TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 256800

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, XF

SUBJECT: U.S. POSITION RE PLO FOR POLICY PLANNING DIS-
CUSSIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

FOR LEWIS FROM LORD

1. DURING THE COURSE OF THE POLICY TALKS THE RECENT
ACTION BY THE ARAB STATES AT RABAT REGARDING THE PLO
MAY COME UP. IF IT IS RAISED BY HOST COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU HANDLE THE ISSUE ALONG
THESE LINES.

2. IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE
DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE AT RABAT
OCTOBER 26-29 AND PLO LEADER ARAFAT'S SPEECH BEFORE THE
UNGA NOVEMBER 13, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT U.S. VIEWS
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ARE UNDERSTOOD. THE U.S. EARLIER HAD THOUGHT THAT

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN COULD TAKE PLACE TO RESOLVE THE IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF THE RETURN OF THE JORDAN WEST BANK TO ARAB RULE. BUT THE RABAT SUMMIT CALLED FOR THE PLO TO BE THE SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PALESTINIANS, WHICH HAS COMPLICATED MATTERS. ISRAEL WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO. ASKED AT HIS NOVEMBER 14 PRESS CONFERENCE WHETHER THE U.S. NOW BELIEVED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE PLO, PRESIDENT FORD REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT TAKEN SUCH A POSITION AND THAT "WE HAVE TO LET THE DECISION AS TO WHO WILL NEGOTIATE BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED." SECRETARY KISSINGER, ASKED THE SAME QUESTION AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THE NEXT DAY, SAID: "THIS IS ENTIRELY A DECISION FOR ISRAEL AND ANY OF THE OTHER PARTIES THAT MAY BE INVOLVED, AND IT IS NOT A MATTER ON WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE ADVICE AS TO THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE APPROPRIATE, IF INDEED IT IS APPROPRIATE." THE SECRETARY WAS ALSO ASKED IF HE DETECTED A CHANGE IN THE PLO ATTITUDE IN ARAFAT'S UNGA SPEECH, TO WHICH HE REPLIED: "OUR READING OF IT IS THAT IT CALLED FOR A STATE WHICH REALLY DID NOT INCLUDE THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, AND THEREFORE WAS DEALING WITH A SUCCESSOR STATE, AND WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS AS A PARTICULARLY MODERATE POSITION."

3. THANKS FOR YOUR REPORTING CABLES WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO READ WITH INTEREST. INGERSOLL

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